

Message Text

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71-62

ACTION SCSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1939

UNCLAS MEXICO 11200

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJ: CASE REVIEW OF ALL AMERICANS PRISONERS IN MEXICO:

MCMICHAEL, JEANNE E.

REF: STATE 194199

1. CONSULAR ACCESS: MCMICHAEL ARRESTED MARCH 24, 1974. EMBASSY LEARNED OF ARREST THRU NEWSPAPER ARTICLE MARCH 24 AND CONOFF VISITED HER MARCH 27. SHE STATED AT TIME THAT SHE HAD ASKED TO CALL EMBASSY BUT HAD BEEN REFUSED.

2. MISTREATMENT AT TIME OF ARREST: IN COPY UNDATED STATEMENT SIGNED BY MCMICHAEL IN EMBASSY FILE (ORIGIN OF STATEMENT NOT KNOWN) SHE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN INTERROGATED INITIALLY FOR TWELVE HOURS, DURING WHICH TIME SHE WAS MADE TO STAND ON WET FLOOR WHILE CATTLE PROD APPLIED, AND SUBSEQUENTLY FOR FURTHER PERIODS. HE COMPLAINED OF LACK OF FOOD, COLD AND BEING THREATENED WITH TRUTH SERUM IF SHE DID NOT ADMIT ACCUSATIONS. SHE INDICATED IN STATEMENT THAT SHE FINALLY SIGNED STATEMENT IN SPANISH WITHOUT KNOWING WHETHER IT WAS ACCURATE. THERE IS NO INDICATION, HOWEVER, THAT SHE MADE THESE COMPLAINTS TO CONOFF THREE DAYS AFTER ARREST. IT DOES NOT NOW APPEAR POSSIBLE TO PROTEST THE ALLEGED MISTREATMENT.

3. POSSIBLE EXTORTION BY ATTORNEY: IN SAME UNDATED STATEMENT, MCMICHAEL SAID THAT SHE HAD PAID 3,500 DOLLARS

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TO ATTORNEY JUAN ANZURES AND THAT HE HAD DONE NOTHING.

(SEE PARA 4).

4. PROLONGED DETENTION: AFTER NEARLY TWENTY MONTHS, MCMICHAEL'S CASE HAS STILL NOT BEEN RESOLVED. THIS MAY BE DUE IN PART TO INACTIVITY BY ATTORNEY. ON NEXT VISIT, CONOFF WILL INQUIRE WHETHER SHE DESIRES EMBASSY TO QUERY JUDGE RE PROLONGED DETENTION, AS WELL WITH REGARD TO HER ATTORNEY.

5. MISTREATMENT IN PRISON: STARK MATERIAL CONTAINS COPY OF STATEMENT DATED DECEMBER 30 (PRESUMABLY 1974) SIGNED BY MCMICHAEL DESCRIBING BRUTAL AND UNSANITARY INTERNAL SEARCH OF WOMEN PRISONER ARRIVING AT LECUMBERRI PRISON FOR CONJUGAL VISIT. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT MCMICHAEL WAS MOLESTED OR WAS EVEN THERE. USPHS DOCTOR ACCOMPANIED CONOFF TO WOMEN'S PRISON NEXT DAY TO EXAMINE COMPLAINTS. UNDERSTANDABLY, THEY DID NOT, ACCORDING TO MCMICHAEL, CONSIDER THIS TO BE SUFFICIENT RESPONSE ON PART OF EMBASSY. JOVA

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